

Re CIA IR-27



Assassination Records Review Board
600 E Street NW • 2nd Floor • Washington, DC 20530
(202) 724-0088 • Fax: (202) 724-0457

December 18, 1997

Mr. John Pereira
Chief
Historical Review Group
Center for the Study of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 02505

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

Re: Status of CIA Responses to Assassination Records Review Board's Requests for Additional Information and Records

Dear John:

I am writing to follow-up on our telephone call earlier today and to convey my serious concern about the status of CIA's responses to the Review Board's requests for additional information and records. Although CIA has completed its responses to several requests, and many others have been answered in part, a significant number of requests have not been answered — including some that were made more than two years ago. On many occasions we have been assured that responses would be forthcoming, only to have promised dates come and go without answers. It is now extremely important that these requests be answered promptly so that we may conduct a proper follow-up if necessary. The issues that we can now identify as being of the highest priority are identified in the text below by double asterisks (**) and we request that they be answered within the next month. We request that the remaining requests be answered by April 1, 1998.

The remainder of this letter is divided into two parts: first, a listing of the formal requests for information and records, and second, a listing of the informal requests for information and records. Please let me know if your understanding of any of the following points differs from ours so that we can resolve any potential discrepancies.

¹As identified more fully below, the issues are: CIA-1 Organizational Material, CIA-6 Cables and Dispatches, CIA-13 Backchannel Communications, CIA-IR-03 HTLINGUAL Documents, CIA-IR-04 Disposition of Angleton Files, CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart, CIA-IR-15 Electronic "take" from Mexico City, CIA-IR-21 DRE Monthly Operational Reports, CIA-IR-22 "A" Files on Clay Shaw and Jim Garrison.

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request. Once the formal statement documenting this search and its results is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-27 Security Files for Five Individuals.

The ARRB staff has reviewed Office of Security files for Richard Case Nagel, Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, Harold Weisburg, and Walter Sheridan. The entire files for Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, and Richard Case Nagel have been designated assassination records. Portions of the files for Harold Weisberg and Walter Sheridan will be designated assassination records. The Novel, Ruby, and Nagel files should be sent to HRG for processing. The Weisberg and Sheridan files should be sent to HRG for ARRB review.

CIA-IR-28 McCone Files.

In August 1997, the ARRB staff reviewed an index for the files of former DCI John McCone and identified some files to be reviewed for assassination records. A meeting should be set up to examine these files.

CIA-IR-29 Oswald Lewinter.

In November 1997, CIA provided a preliminary oral response to whether it has files on Mr. Oswald Lewinter. CIA should document its findings in writing. Once formal documentation of the completed searches has been provided, the request is complete.

CIA-IR-30 Cherepanov Papers.

In the fall of 1963, Paul Garbler, Chief of Station Moscow, copied a series of KGB papers from the American Department of the KGB's Second Directorate which had arrived at the embassy from Aleksandr Cherepanov. The Review Board requests to review these papers.

CIA-IR-31 Dulles Calendar.

In testimony before the Church Committee on May 4, 1977, Richard Bissell made reference to the existence of a calendar for former DCI Allen Dulles which would reflect all of Dulles' meetings. The Review Board requests the Dulles calendar for January 1959 through his resignation as DCI on November 29, 1961.

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TR-27

26 September 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Barry Harrelson
DCI/CSI/HRG

VIA: Becky Rant
DDA/IRO

FROM: Janet A. Ecklund
Chief, Information Management Branch
Office of Personnel Security

SUBJECT: Records Search Request for the
Assassination Records Review Board

REFERENCE: Lotus Note dated 26 September 1997

1. In response to the referenced request, the Office of Personnel Security's Management Data Program/Personnel Security (MDP/PS) database was searched.

2. The searches undertaken were reasonably calculated to retrieve all responsive documents. Based upon the information provided, the following security records were located. These security records are available for review by your office after prior written notification.

NAGELL, Richard C. AIN 0 264 170

NOVEL, Gordon D. AIN 0 526 113

RUBY, Jack L. AIN 0 261 219

SHERIDAN, Walter J. AIN 0 101 572

WEISBERG, Harold AIN 0 018 281

3. This memorandum is provided for your information and appropriate disposition. Please direct any further inquiries regarding this matter to W. Curtis Chaloner at 40552 (secure).

W. Curtis Chaloner
for
Janet A. Ecklund

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ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

2 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Fredrick C. Wickham @ DO
Lee S. Strickland @ DA
Mary Lou Cummings
John F. Pereira

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson
JFK Project Officer

OFFICE: OIM/HRP

SUBJECT: ARRB Requests - Priorities

REFERENCE: ARRB letter dtd 18 Dec 1997, Status of ARRB Request for Additional Information

I have been advised by the ARRB staff that an updated "Status of Requests" letter will be sent to the Agency early next week. The following requests will be listed as priorities to be completed in February:

CIA-14 Mexico City Station Annual Reports (DO)

CIA-IR-06 QKENCHANT (DO)

CIA-IR-08 "Family Jewels" (DCI/IRO and DO)

CIA-IR-09 George Bush (DO, DA, DCI/IRO)

CIA-IR-11 Warren Commission Critics (DA, DO)

CIA-IR-27 Security Files for Five Individuals (DA)

CIA-IR-32 AMWORLD (DO).

I have partial responses to some of these requests; call me if you have questions or need the status of your response.

CC: Eileen M. Wukitch @ DO
Becky L. Rant @ DA
Kathryn I. Dyer @ DA (bcc: Bonnie K. Hunter-Y-)

Sent on 2 February 1998 at 01:26:47 PM

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ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

From the Desk of Frieda P. Omasta

NOTE FOR: W. Curtis Chaloner @ DA
FROM: Frieda P. Omasta
OFFICE: ADA/IRO
DATE: 02/06/98 05:26:24 AM
SUBJECT: PRIORITY - CIA-IR-27 - ARRB Request for Security Files on 5 Individuals (DA/IRO No. 14)

Curt:

In response to CIA-IR-27, on 26 September 1997 OPS advised Barry Harrelson (JFK Project Officer) that security records are available for review by his office on the following individuals:

NAGELL, Richard C.
NOVEL, Gordon D.
RUBY, Jack L.
SHERIDAN, Walter J.
WEISBERG, Harold

Barry has just advised that the files on Nagell, Novel and Ruby have been identified as Assassination Records. Accordingly, they have requested that OPS transfer these files to DCI/CSI/HRG (J. Barry Harrelson) for inclusion in these records. Barry has further advised that a copy of the documents from each file would be acceptable if OPS prefers.

This is with respect to the files on Walter J. SHERIDAN and Harold WEISBERG. Barry has asked that arrangements be made for these files to be reviewed by the ARRB to determine which documents in each of these files are Assassination Records. In light of a short deadline, it is requested that the arrangements be made early in February. Once documents have been selected, Barry will need copies of those documents as well.

Please keep Becky and me posted with respect to these requests. Thanks in advance for your assistance. Frieda

CC: Becky L. Rant @ DA
J. Barry Harrelson @ DCI
Katie Nakai

Sent on 6 February 1998 at 05:26:24 AM

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06 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Barry Harrelson
DCI/HRG

FROM: Linda J. Stevens
Chief, Clearance Division
Office of Personnel Security

SUBJECT: Records Search Request
Warren Commission Critics

REFERENCE: CIA-IR-11

1. In response to the referenced request, the Office of Personnel Security's Management Data Program/Personnel Security (MDP/PS) database was searched.

2. The searches undertaken were reasonably calculated to retrieve all responsive documents. Based upon the information provided, the Office of Personnel Security has located one (1) possible individual who may or may not meet your requirements outlined in your referenced request.

Epstein, Edward J. AIN 0 488 768

3. There was an impersonal folder regarding a Sylvia Meagher and a 1968 Ramparts magazine article. This information was destroyed under the Records Control Schedule on 01 January 1994. Based upon the limited biographic information, security records were not located for the remaining individuals.

4. This memorandum is provided for your information and appropriate disposition. Please direct any further inquiries regarding this matter to W. Curtis Chaloner at (40552) (secure).

W. Curtis Chaloner
for
Linda J. Stevens

16 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR:

~~Janet A. Ecklund~~Chief, Information Management Branch
Office of Personnel Security

FROM:

J. Barry Harrelson
Senior Reviewer

SUBJECT:

Requested "Mission Statement" re
HRP/ARRB

1. This is in response to your request asking that HRP provide you with a "mission statement" concerning HRP and its relationship to the Assassination Records Review Board. It flows from the fact that the ARRB staff has declared the OPS files of Nagell, Novel and Ruby to "assassination records" and our subsequent request that the files or copies thereof be forwarded to HRP. Also, certain portions of the files of Walter Sheridan and Harold Weisberg have or will be declared assassination records.

2. The Historical Review Project (formerly the Historical Review Group, CSI, DCI) has among its several projects the responsibility to deal with the presidentially appointed Assassination Records Review Board and its legal mandate to find and transfer to the National Archives all U.S. Government records relating to the Assassination of President Kennedy. The authority of the ARRB is fairly broad and includes: the authority to designate files/documents "assassination records," to determine if a particular record or certain information within it must be released to the Archives or postponed until 2007, and, the power to issue subpoenas in the pursuit of its assigned activities.

3. In the instant case, the Board staff has designated the Nagell, Novel and Ruby security files assassination records. Copies of them must now be processed by HRP according to its current guidelines for release/protection of information and the files released to the Archives. With respect to the files on Sheridan and Weisberg, further review by the Board is necessary to designate which, if any, portions of them are assassination records.

4. I hope that the above fulfills your requirement in this matter and I look forward to receipt of the files.

J. Barry Harrelson

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CL BY: 0104288
CL REASON: Section 1.5 C
DECL ON: X1
DRV FRM: COV 1-82

NOTE FOR: **Paul F. Morris @ DA**
Joseph B. Castillo Jr @ DA
Richard Rees @ DA
Robert F. Bodroghy-Y
FROM:
OFFICE: OPS/CD/IMB
DATE: 02/19/98 11:11:47 AM
SUBJECT:

1. (AIUO) Six volumes of the Oswald files were released to HRG/CSI for review and eventual release to the AARB. Volume V, the missing volume was never found and the conclusion was that it either never existed and there was a numbering error or that the material from that volume was incorporated into the other volumes.

2. (AIUO) If we send copies of the files on Nagell, Novel and Ruby to J. Barry Harrelson, Barry's office will be responsible for determining what may be released to the AARB, and as appropriate referring third party documents to the originating agency. He will coordinate with us prior to releasing the files to the AARB.

3. (U) We are waiting for C/OPS concurrence prior to reproducing the files.

CC: **Linda J. Stevens-C @ DA, Frieda P. Omasta @ DA**
Sent on 19 February 1998 at 11:11:47 AM

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10 April 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Barry Harrelson
CSI/HRG, JFK Project Officer

FROM: Robert F. Bodrogy 028
DA/OPS/IMB

DATE: 10 April 1998

SUBJECT: Files of Richard C Nagell(0264170) and Jack L. Rubenstein(0261219)

1. Based on a telephone conversation with Gary Breneman this date, forwarded herewith is a complete copy of the Nagell file and a copy of the Rubenstein file minus the newspaper clippings.

2. The original newspaper clippings from the Rubenstein file are also forwarded herewith with the understanding that your office will have the clippings copied and either the originals or a copy of the originals will be returned to this office.

3. This should complete all action on our part relative to the turnover of files to your office for the AARB and all action relative to the forwarding of copies of specific documents requested by Michelle Coombs.

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18 June 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Gary M. Breneman, IC

SUBJECT: Completion of ARRB Review of Certain Security Files

1. The ARRB requested access to certain security files and the same was granted.

2. Following review of such files, the reviewer, Michelle Combs, directed that portions of each be copied and made a part of the JFK assassination records. Further, that the materials be review for release as soon as possible.

3. This request has been completed and copies of the selected portions of the security files on the following individuals have been place in the queue to be processed:

- A. Ted Shackley
- B. William M. Kent
- C. Harold Weisberg
- D. Walter J. Sheridan
- E. Gordon Novel
- F. Jack L. Rubenstein (aka Jack Ruby)

4. Questions concerning this process should be made to Barry Harrelson or Gary Breneman.


Gary M. Breneman

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14 August 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Laura Denk
Executive Director, ARRB

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson
JFK Project Officer, HRP/OIM

SUBJECT: CIA-IR-27, Security Files for Five
Individuals

1. This is in response to referent request.
2. This request asked for review of the Office of Security files on five individuals -- Richard Case Nagell, Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, Walter Sheridan and Harold Weisberg. The entire files on all five individuals were made available for ARRB staff review. The files of Nagell, Novel and Ruby and portions of the files on Sheridan and Weisberg were designated assassination records and put into the review process for release to the National Archives.
3. This concludes the Agency's action on this request. If you have any questions, please advise.



J. Barry Harrelson